

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION**

MATTHEW HENNIE, on behalf of	:	
himself and others similarly situated,	:	Civil Action No.
	:	1:18-cv-2045-WMR
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
ICOT HEARING SYSTEMS, LLC	:	
D/B/A LISTENCLEAR and ICOT	:	
HOLDINGS, LLC	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

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**DECLARATION OF STEVEN H. KOVAL  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

1. I make this declaration in support of the Plaintiff’s Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement of Class Action Settlement to set forth my qualifications to serve as class counsel.

2. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice in the State of Georgia, I am over 18 years of age, am competent to testify and make this affidavit on personal knowledge.

### **Qualifications of Counsel**

3. I have been admitted to practice before the United States District Courts for the Northern District of Georgia, Middle District of Georgia and Southern District of Georgia. I am in good standing in every court to which I am admitted to practice.

4. Along with my co-counsel in this action, I will faithfully, effectively and zealously represent the interests of the class in this action.

5. I have extensive experience in the prosecution of actions on behalf of consumers, particularly claims under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 (“FDCPA”), Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 (“FCRA”), and Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 (“TCPA”). I have filed over 140 actions in the Northern District of Georgia on behalf of consumers since 2007.

6. I am a 1986 graduate of the Washington College of Law of American University and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in the same year.

7. Since 2007, my law practice has been focused primarily on representing consumers in FDCPA, FCRA and TCPA actions.

8. I have represented classes of consumers and been appointed class counsel as follows:

a. Mey v. Interstate National Dealer Services, Inc., et. al., Civil Action No. 1:14-cv-01846-ELR, USDC, ND. Ga., a TCPA settlement of \$4,200,000 granted final approval on June 7, 2016;

b. Heidarpour v. Central Payment Co., Civil Action No. 4:15-cv-139(CDL), USDC, MD. Ga., a TCPA settlement of \$6,500,000 granted final approval on May 4, 2017;

c. Randolph Jones, Jr. v. Advanced Bureau of Collections LLP, et al., Civil Action File No. 5:15-cv-00016-MTT, USDC, MD. Ga. Certification was contested. A FDCPA settlement that received final approval was entered on July 10, 2017;

d. Abante Rooter and Plumbing, Inc. v. Birch Communications, Inc., Civil Action File No. 1:15-cv-03562-AT, USDC, ND. Ga., a TCPA class settlement of \$12,000,000 granted final approval on December 14, 2017; and

e. Dianne Rice-Redding, et al. v. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Civil Action File No. 1:16-cv-03634-WMR, USDC, ND. Ga. A preliminary order approving a class action settlement was entered on March 20, 2019.

9. I regularly lecture at state and national conferences on consumer law.

My past speaking engagements include:

National Consumer Law Center's 2018 Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (Denver) on Negotiating and Drafting Settlement Agreements;

National Consumer Law Center's 2016 FDCPA Conference (Miami) on reasonable attorney's fees in smaller value cases;

National Consumer Law Center's 2015 Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (San Antonio) on the effects of 1099s in consumers' claims;

National Association of Consumer Credit Administrators 2015 Annual Conference (Atlanta) on collection agency issues;

National Consumer Law Center's 2015 FDCPA Conference (San Antonio) on developing a FDCPA practice;

National Consumer Law Center's 2014 Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (Tampa) on managing a consumer law practice;

National Consumer Law Center's 2013 Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (Washington, D.C.) on the ABCs of the FDCPA;

National Consumer Law Center's 2013 FDCPA Conference (Baltimore) on errors to avoid in FDCPA practice and litigation;

National Consumer Law Center's 2012 Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (Seattle) on errors to avoid in consumer practice and litigation;

National Consumer Law Center's 2012 FDCPA Conference (New Orleans)  
on errors to avoid in FDCPA practice and litigation; and

National Consumer Law Center's 2010 FDCPA Conference (Jacksonville)  
on litigation privilege and other current FDCPA developments.

10. I have devoted time and resources to this litigation.

11. As a result of my extensive experience litigating individual and class action consumer claims, I am well-aware of the significant time and resources needed to litigate such actions, and my firm possesses the resources necessary to prosecute these actions successfully.

SIGNED UNDER PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY THIS 1st DAY OF  
JUNE, 2019.

/s/ Steven H. Koval  
Steven H. Koval